

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-11 have been canceled in favor of new claims 12-18, which better define the subject matter Applicants regard as the invention. Support for the features recited in the new claims is provided by the original claims, Fig. 3, and the specification on page 8, lines 17-22. The new claims have been drafted to avoid the issues underlying the objections to claims 2 and 9.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-8, and 10 were rejected, under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over Ahmadi et al. (US 6,597,671) in view of Rode (US 6,157,818). Claims 2, 5, 9, and 11 were rejected, under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over Ahmadi in view of Rode and further in view of Kakushi (JP 08107414). To the extent these rejections may be deemed applicable to new claims 12-18, Applicants respectfully traverse.

It is a feature of the present invention to assign a network identifier used by a separate, existing base station apparatus to a local base station apparatus when the existing base station apparatus and the local base station apparatus form the same communication network. That is, both base stations apparatuses share the same network identifier when both base station apparatuses form the same communication network. As a result, a

plurality of base station apparatuses may be assigned the same network identifier.

Assuming a case where numerous companies have their respective corporate LANs and base stations in the same area, the above-noted feature of the present invention makes it possible to assign unique identifiers to the respective corporate LANs.

By contrast, Ahmadi teaches a base station apparatus that selects an unused NET ID for its use. Accordingly, all base station apparatuses have different base station IDs (see Ahmadi, Fig. 12 and Tables 1 and 2 in cols. 14 and 16, respectively). Ahmadi does not teach assigning the same base station ID to a plurality of base station apparatuses.

As for the network ID, Ahmadi teaches that each distinct logical LAN is considered an autonomous network and carries a unique network identifier (NETWORK-ID) (see col. 8, lines 47-49). Ahmadi teaches nothing about the method of assigning network IDs.

In summary, Ahmadi does not teach assigning the same network identifier to an existing base station apparatus and a local base station apparatus when both base station apparatuses form the same communication network, as recited in independent claims 12 and 18.

Rode teaches a communication system that employs an automatic addressing scheme in which a master address has at

least eight bits, so as to minimize the likelihood that two master transceivers within communication range will have the same master address (Rode col. 4, lines 10-12). As a result, each of the master transceivers within communication range has a different address. Rode does not teach assigning a network identifier used by an existing base station apparatus to a local base station apparatus.

Rode further teaches that a slave transceiver acquires a new address from the new first master message that it receives (see col. 4, lines 32-35). The address of a slave transceiver changes every time power is turned on, and no consideration is given to whether an existing base station apparatus and a local base station apparatus form the same communication network.

Rode does not teach assigning the same identifier to an existing base station apparatus and a local base station apparatus when both base station apparatuses form the same communication network, as recited in claims 12 and 18.

Kakushi is cited in the Office Action only for providing the teaching of extending a MAC address by one bit. This teaching does not supplement the teachings of Ahmadi and Rode with regard to the distinguishing features of claims 12 and 18.

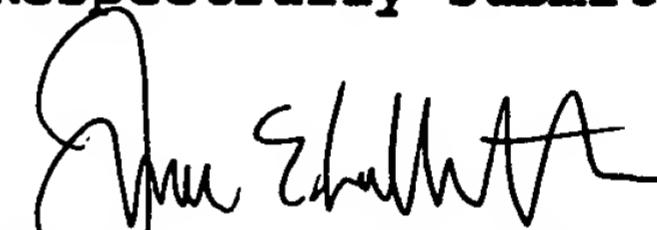
Accordingly, Applicants submit that the combined teachings of the applied references do not suggest the subject matter

defined by claims 12 and 18. Therefore, allowance of claims 12 and 18 and all claims dependent therefrom is warranted.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: October 20, 2004
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